1	2	3	4
		of the scheme is to improve the market-ability of the SSI products by enhancing their quality.	
7.	EDP/MDP	To impart entrepreneurial/ managerial training.	43 EDP/MDP/IMC courses were conducted in Goa during last five years in which 2850 trainees were benefited.
8.	(i) Mahila Coir Yojana	Under the Mahila Coir Yojana Scheme of the Coir Board, rural women in the State are provided training on spinning coir yarn with stipend. On completion of training, financial assistance is given to successful trainees for procurement of spinning ratts. The training is provided through self-help groups, non-governmental organizations and State Government agencies.	Rs. 6.50 lakh incurred for procuring machinery for the training centre at Cundium, Goa. Rs. 2.98 lakh incurred for conducting training programmes etc.
	(ii) Entrepreneurship awareness programmes and entrepreneurship development programmes.	For the development of coir industry, entrepreneurship awareness programmes and entrepreneurship development programmes are conducted in the State through self-help groups, non-governmental organizations, etc. Under these programmes, prospective entrepreneurs are provided with information on all aspects of the industry.	

Expert committee on the status of private caterers

698. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the findings of the expert committee on the status of private caterers serving in the Railways;

(b) what were the terms of reference of the committee;

(c) whether Government agree with the committee's observation about unhygienic conditions in which such catering facilities are kept;

(d) if so, what steps have been taken against such erring caterers;

(e) whether Government agree with the recommendations of the expert committee;. if so, the details thereof; and

(f) by when such recommendations would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (f) No 'Expert Committee' as such has been set up by Railways to look into the status of private caterers of Indian Railways. However, Hon'ble Delhi High Court in the context of a Public Interest Litigation have constituted a committee, who have observed as under:-

1. Every kitchen should have a complete and proper team of qualified staff trained in running and maintaining a kitchen and undertaking cooking operations.
2. There should be properly qualified and expert consultants on board of private caterers to guide the managers of these kitchens.
3. There should be formal, approved and authenticated document, issued to private caterers wherein stringent standard guidelines are detailed for maintaining such kitchens.
4. Lack of understanding within the staff regarding the concept of mass production.
5. No food production safety norms were being observed or were even within the knowledge of the kitchen staff.
6. The transfer of food from the kitchen to the pantry car was being done in steel containers for its final packing on the train. No awareness about holding temperatures was found amongst the staff.
7. System of garbage disposal inside the kitchen is less effective.
8. Food was not being prepared as per the standardized recipes.
9. Regular and proper training programmes should be organized for the kitchen staff particularly touching the areas of hygiene, quality and quantity of cooking.
10. Periodic and regular cleaning and pest control schedules must be put in place in the kitchens of private caterers.

In compliance to the above observation, Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC), have taken the following steps to effect improvement in Railways' catering services:-

1. Catering licenses for five trains have been cancelled.
2. Qualified quality control professionals have been deputed for carrying out the inspections of licensed catering units and accordingly advising the licensee for improvement and special training programme has been conducted for the staff of these licensed catering units.
3. M/s. TUV has been engaged to carry out food safety audit of licensee managed catering units.
4. M/s. IMRB has been engaged to conduct on-board customer satisfaction survey to ascertain the overall quality of catering services.